



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Yoshihara et al.

Serial No.: 09/690,455

Group Art Unit: 2673

Filed: October 18, 2000

Examiner: Shapiro, L.

For: VEHICLE-MOUNTED APPARATUS AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING THE SAME

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the requirement in 37 C.F.R. §1.2, 37 C.F.R. §1.133, and MPEP §713.04, that Applicants provide a statement of the substance of an interview, Applicants hereby submit(s) the following summary.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner Shapiro and Supervisory Examiner Shankar for taking time from their busy schedule to conduct a personal interview on September 14, 2004, for the above-referenced Application. The interview was courteous and professional, and it is believed by Applicants' representative that prosecution has been advanced because of this interview.

Concerning the substance of the interview, Applicants' representative presented a summary of the present invention as described by the figures and explained Applicants' position that Japanese Patent JP 07-160203 to Satoru et al. would not be qualified to be a primary reference in a prior art rejection, since the techniques demonstrated therein did not satisfy the plain meaning of the independent claim 3.

That is, the claim language requires that the first panel be mountable onto a surface of

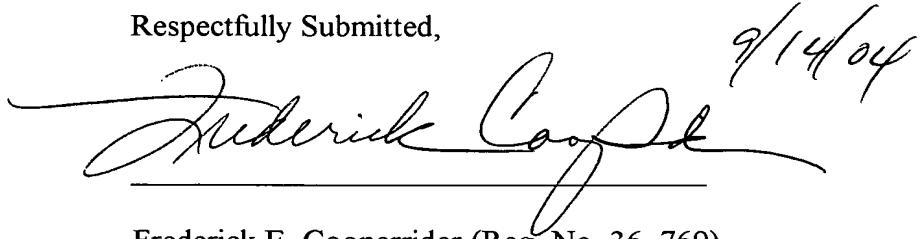
a vehicle. Since the apparatus in Satoru is chassis-mounted, it would not reasonably meet this requirement. Applicants also submitted that it could not be modified without changing its principle of operation to satisfy the plain meaning of the claim language.

Moreover, Applicants' representative pointed out that the two panels in Satoru do not completely close, since the second panel in Satoru is stowed in a position perpendicular to the first panel.

Therefore, Applicants' representative stated that Satoru would not be qualified to serve as the primary reference in a prior art evaluation of the present invention as described by claim 3.

The Examiners seemed to indicate that they understood Applicants' position and would consider it in more detail in the next evaluation.

Respectfully Submitted,



9/14/04

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